

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/775,887

Examiner

Anjan K. Deb

Applicant(s)

PONZIANI ET AL.

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-10 and 15-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 10/5/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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1. (Amended) A method of sensing spark in an igniter in a gas turbine engine, comprising:

- a) maintaining a sensor adjacent a surface of the igniter, wherein said surface is electrically conductive and connected to a system ground;
- b) using the sensor to detect spark; and
- c) issuing a signal when spark is detected.

Cancel claims 4, 11-14

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 15-22 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of the claims 1-3, 5-10, 15-20 is the inclusion of a method of sensing spark in an igniter in a gas turbine engine, comprising: maintaining a sensor adjacent a surface of the igniter, wherein said surface is electrically conductive and connected to a system ground.

The primary reason for allowance of the claims 21,22 is the inclusion of receiving partial, but not all, return current from the igniter on the conductive shielding,

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed 08/15/2005 and interview summary (see attached).

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney of record Mr. Gregory A. Welte, on 10/5/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, page 1 [0001], under CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS delete all occurrences of -- SN __/__,__--

Insert in page 1 [0001], line 5, insert after "TURBINE ENGINE," -- US Patent Application Number 10/775,864 --

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Insert in page 1 [0001], line 7, after "TURBINE ENGINE," -- US Patent

Application Number 10/775,876 --

Insert in page 1 [0001], line 9, after "TURBINE ENGINE," -- US Patent

Application Number 10/775,851 --

Insert in page 1 [0001], line 11, after "SHIELDING," -- US Patent Application

Number 10/775,847 --

Insert in page 1 [0001], line 12, after "TURBINE ENGINE," -- US Patent

Application Number 10/775,846 --

In claim 1, a), insert in line 4, after "igniter",

-- , wherein said surface is electrically conductive and connected to a system ground--

Following is a marked up version of amended claim 1:

1. (Amended) A method of sensing spark in an igniter in a gas turbine engine, comprising:

- a) maintaining a sensor adjacent a surface of the igniter, wherein said surface is electrically conductive and connected to a system ground;

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- b) using the sensor to detect spark; and
- c) issuing a signal when spark is detected.

Cancel claims 4, 11-14

Allowable Subject Matter

- 3. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 15-22 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

- 4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of the claims 1-3, 5-10, 15-20 is the inclusion of a method of sensing spark in an igniter in a gas turbine engine, comprising: maintaining a sensor adjacent a surface of the igniter, wherein said surface is electrically conductive and connected to a system ground. The above feature is recited in claim 1 is found to be novel and is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art in combination with the remaining claims limitations.

The primary reason for allowance of the claims 21,22 is the inclusion of receiving partial, but not all, return current from the igniter on the conductive shielding, wherein net current in the shielded cable is non-zero; and maintaining a sensor adjacent a surface of the igniter, which detects the non-zero net current. The

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above feature is recited in claim 21 is found to be novel and is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art in combination with the remaining claims limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Anjan K. Deb whose telephone number is 571-272-2228. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lefkowitz Edwards can be reached at 571-272-2180.



Anjan K. Deb

Primary Patent Examiner

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10/6/05

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